

21(5)  
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS.

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

on the Health of

S A W B R I D G E W O R T H   U R B A N   D I S T R I C T

For the Year 1958.

Report presented by:-

The Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector,

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS  
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1958.  
SAWERIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

PREFACE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the Health of the Sawbridgeworth Urban District for the year ending December 31st, 1958. This report has been prepared in accordance with Circular No. 22/58 of the Ministry of Health.

During the year under review, Dr. R.P. Garrow acted as Medical Officer of Health. I am most grateful to Dr. Garrow for his courtesy in showing me over the district, introducing me to members of the Council and officials, and explaining local problems to me before I took up my appointment on 1st January 1959. I wish him much happiness in his retirement.

I wish also to thank Members of the Council for the cordial welcome I have received from them and for the keen interest they have shown in the matters relating in the widest possible sense, to the health of the District.

I must accord my appreciation of the co-operation I have received from my colleagues, especially from Mr. Ford, the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector, who has never hesitated in making available to me his local knowledge. Both his assistance and that of Mr. Berry in the compilation of this report have been most valuable.

There has been a small increase in the total number of live births and a small decrease in the total number of deaths. The general health of the Urban District was good throughout the year. There was a slight outbreak of measles and two cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified. They occurred in a boy and his younger sister, but there was no extension of the infection after their discharge from hospital.



There was one case of mild paralytic poliomyelitis affecting a girl aged eleven. Fortunately she has made an excellent recovery.

With the advent of greater stocks of vaccine, the County Council were able to press ahead with their immunisation campaign. In this they had much assistance from local Doctors who vaccinated many of their patients in their own surgeries.

It is gratifying to note that no prosecutions were necessary under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The implementation of the regulations was, however, carefully supervised by the Public Health Inspector and on his advice many improvements relating to general cleanliness, washing facilities and additional sanitary accommodation were carried out in food premises.

During the year, no action was required under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948.

New buildings amounting to seventy seven dwellings, and a shop - of which sixty four dwellings were erected by private enterprise - were completed during the year. It is possible that the electrification of the railway to Bishop's Stortford may, when finished, lead to an expansion of Sawbridgeworth as a residential area.

I am,  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

Gordon M. Frizelle.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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High Street,  
HODDESDON, Herts.

(Office Telephone: Hoddesdon 3061. Private: Hertford 2150).

Deputy (Part Time) Medical Officer of Health.

Peter de Bec TURTLE, V.R.D., M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.

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Telephone: Hoddesdon 2040.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (And Surveyor).

C. A. Ford. Certificate of the R.S.I., and S.I.E.J. Board,  
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods,  
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
The Forebury,  
Sawbridgeworth, Herts. (Telephone: Sawbridgeworth 2161).

Clerical duties to the Public Health Department were carried out by  
Mr. R.A. Berry, Assistant Surveyor, with typing assistance from  
Miss E. W. Standing, in the Clerk's Department.

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COMMITTEE CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health matters are dealt with by the Highways, Public Health, Allotments and Lighting Committee, comprised of all the Members of the Council.

The Chairman of the Committee for the session 1958/1959 was Councillor MR. G. A. VOLLER.

S E C T I O N    A.

GENERAL STATISTICS 1958.

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1957 are shown in brackets).

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Sawbridgeworth: 4,390      (4,250).

Natural increase or decrease	....	+	23
Migration in or out	....	+	<u>117</u>
Total increase or decrease	....	+	<u>140</u>

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres                      ....                      ....                      2,678

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Book: 1,450      (1,415)

Number of houses per acre	....	0.55
Number of Persons per acre	....	1.6
Number of persons per house	....	3.0

Rateable Value of District                      ....                      £47,555.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate                      ....                      £190.



# VITAL STATISTICS 1958.

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1957 are shown in brackets).

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	(Total)	53	(45)
Live birth rate per 1,000 population		12.06	(10.57)
Area comparability factor for Births		1.00	( 1.00)
Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		12.06	(10.57)

<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>	(Total)	0	(0)
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births		0	(0)

<u>BIRTHS</u>	Total live and still births	53	(45)
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Live Births		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Total Number	24	29	53
	Legitimate	23	29	52
	Illegitimate	1	0	1
Still-births	Total Number	0	0	0
	Legitimate	0	0	0
	Illegitimate	0	0	0

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of  
total Live Births 1.88

<u>COMPARISON RATES</u>	<u>Sawbridgeworth U.D.</u>	<u>Hertford County</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
Live Birth Rate	12.06	17.89	-
Area Comparability Rate	1.00	0.93	-
Standardised Birth Rate	12.06	16.64	16.40
Still-birth rate	0	19.51	21.60

INFANT DEATHS.

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Infants under one year of age	Total	1	1	2
Legitimate		1	1	2
Illegitimate		0	0	0
Neo-Natal Mortality (first four weeks). (included in total of infant deaths under one year above)	Total	1	0	1
Legitimate		1	0	1
Illegitimate		0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	Total		37.73	(0)
Legitimate			37.88	(0)
Illegitimate			0	(0)
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)			18.86	
Illegitimate live-births per cent of total live births			1.88	

MATERNAL DEATHS

Total Maternal Deaths including abortion	0
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	0

COMPARISON RATES

	<u>S'worth</u> <u>U. D. C.</u>	<u>Hertford</u> <u>County</u>	<u>England &amp;</u> <u>Wales</u>
Infant Mortality Rate	37.73	16.45	22.58
Legitimate	37.88	16.50	-
Illegitimate	0	16.60	-
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	18.86	11.46	16.20
Maternal Mortality Rate	0	0.43	0.43

DEATHS.

	<u>Males</u> 15	<u>Females</u> 15	<u>Total</u> 30 (35)
Deaths (all ages)			
Death Rate per 1,000 population		6.83	
Area Comparability Factor for deaths		0.97	(1.00)
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population		6.60	(8.21)

COMPARISON RATES

	<u>S'worth</u> <u>U.D.C.</u>	<u>Hertford</u> <u>County</u>	<u>England &amp;</u> <u>Wales</u>
Death Rate	6.83	9.65	-
Area Comparability Factor	0.97	1.07	-
Standardised Death Rate	6.60	10.33	11.70

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year:

Whooping Cough	1	(February)
Measles	60	(April : May : August : November : December : January : February : March).
Acute Pneumonia	2	(November : March)
Sonne Dysentery	2	(May)
2 cases of Food Poisoning were notified.		
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	(September)

Prevention of Illness - Poliomyelitis Innoculations.

The Hertfordshire County Council carried out a series of innoculations against poliomyelitis during the year.

Tuberculosis Notifications, etc.during the Year:-

The Year started with 24 names upon the Tuberculosis Register, as follows:-

Males	:	Pulmonary 7,	Non-Pulmonary Nil.
Females:		Pulmonary 16,	Non-Pulmonary 1.

Three new cases were notified for the first time.

At the end of 1958, the following cases remained upon the Register:-

Males	:	Pulmonary 9,	Non-Pulmonary Nil.
Females:		Pulmonary 14,	Non-Pulmonary 1

Total : 24 cases



CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1958.

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	ALL CAUSES ... ..	15	15
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ...	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other .. ...	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease ... ..	0	0
4	Diphtheria ... ..	0	0
5	Whooping Cough . ... ..	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections ... ..	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis .. ...	0	0
8	Measles ... ..	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic disease...	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	0	1
11	" " lung, bronchus ... ..	1	0
12	" " breast ... ..	0	0
13	" " uterus ... ..	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	2
15	Leukæmia, aleukaemia ... ..	0	0
16	Diabetes ... ..	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	1	2
18	Coronary disease, angina ... ..	2	3
19	Hypertension with heart disease... ..	0	1
20	Other heart disease .. ...	1	3
21	Other circulatory disease... ..	0	1
22	Influenza ... ..	0	0
23	Pneumonia ... ..	1	1
24	Bronchitis ... ..	1	0
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	0	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum ... ..	0	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ...	0	0
31	Congenital malformations ... ..	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases .	2	0
33	Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1	0
34	All other accidents .. ...	0	0
35	Suicide ... ..	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war ... ..	0	0
(a)	Still Births .... ..	0	0
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	0	0
(c)	" " " four weeks to one year of age ...	0	0

## S E C T I O N     B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR SAWBRIDGEWORTH.

#### LABORATORY SERVICE.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, certain (Medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Herts and Essex General Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES.

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, are available in the District. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

#### Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses :     3.                      Welfare Centre :     1.

#### Vaccinations, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisations.

Medical Officers at the Welfare Centre will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

#### Home and Domestic Help.

Applications for this Service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 25a Portland Road, Bishop's Stortford (Telephone: Bishop's Stortford 332).

A charge may be made for this Service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

#### Care and After-Care.

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant, should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A Medical Loan Depot has been established at Bishop's Stortford.

A charge may be made for both the above Services.



### Ambulance Service.

There is an Ambulance Station at Bishop's Stortford (Telephone Bishop's Stortford 1101). Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a medical practitioner.

### Day Nurseries.

There is no Day Nursery at Sawbridgeworth.

### Mental Health.

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. J.H. Webster, Collett Road, Ware, Herts. (Telephone: Ware 541).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been established in Hertford.

### HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Sawbridgeworth is served chiefly by the Herts and Essex General Hospital (formerly Haymeads) and by the Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital.

These hospitals are managed by the Hertford Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

### GENERAL PRACTITIONER MEDICAL SERVICES.

Two General Practitioners reside and practise in Sawbridgeworth: but the Town is also served by Practitioners in the Harlow (Essex) and Bishop's Stortford localities.

### DENTAL SERVICE.

Dental Practitioners are available in adjoining towns.

### OTHER SERVICES.

There is a Mortuary owned and managed by the Urban District Council.

Blood Transfusion Donor Sessions are held at the Memorial Hall.

There is a very active Old People's Welfare Service in Sawbridgeworth.

## S E C T I O N   C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The piped supply is provided by the Herts and Essex Water Company to 1,450 houses, six of which share three standpipes.

77 houses in the District, including new houses, were connected to the mains during the year, leaving four dwellings in Spellbrook which are supplied from privately-owned wells.

#### QUALITY.

##### Bacteriological.

Reports were received upon 40 samples of the town's water supply, and show that B.Coli. were absent from 100 ml. in each case.

##### Chemical.

One sample was submitted for analysis. The result showed slight opalescence and deposit due to the presence of an appreciable and therefore objectional trace of iron. (Average 0.36 parts per million). The water was neutral in reaction, very hard in character though not excessively so, and it contained no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It was of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

Apart from the objection to the slight lack of clarity and trace of iron, the results were indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

#### DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Most of the District is served by main drainage. Sewage is disposed of at two sewage works. The effluent at the principal works is discharged into the River Stort after purification and in the case of the other (smaller) works, it is disposed of by septic tank treatment followed by land irrigation.

Four out of six samples of effluent taken from the Central Sewage Works for analysis were satisfactory upon analysis. One sample was slightly high in suspended matter, and the other had a high B.O.D. content.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Household refuse is collected fortnightly and is disposed of by controlled tipping at Redricks Lane Tip. Special arrangements are made in connection with trade refuse.

## PARTICULARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1958.

### Summary of Visits.

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	219	
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	128	
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	105	
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	86	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	<u>174</u>	
			Total	...	<u>712</u>	
Number of Informal Notices served					...	15
"	"	Statutory Notices served			...	Nil

## HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1954.

### NEW HOUSING.

64 private dwellings were completed during the year and the Council erected 13 dwellings and a shop on the Bullfields Housing Estate.

It is the Council's intention to erect dwellings for Old People in the near future.

Two families were re-housed from two cottages which were owned by the Council. The cottages will be demolished next year.

The Slum Clearance Programme is well under way and dwellings to provide alternative accommodation are under construction.

### The Rent Act, 1957.

One application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair and on notification by the Council the landlord gave an undertaking to remedy the defects. These defects were completed by the end of the year.

There were many enquiries from tenants at the Council Offices, and where possible, guidance was given regarding procedure.



## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

### Milk

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	2
Number of Dairies	...	...	...	1

### Supplementary Licences to use Special Designations

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	2

The Dairy was inspected on twelve occasions during the year. Purveyors' delivery vehicles also receive frequent inspection.

### Ice Cream

No Ice cream is manufactured in the district. There are 12 registered premises who sell wrapped ice cream, and regular inspections are carried out.

### Unsound Food

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and were surrendered:-

<u>Category.</u>	<u>No. of Tins or Containers</u>	<u>Weight in lb.</u>
Frozen Eggs	-	10
Meat	-	6
Meat (Tinned)	1	7
Potatoes	-	<u>409</u>
Total Weight	...	<u>432</u>

(1957 Total : 40 lbs.)

### Food Premises

Shops and other premises engaged in the sale and preparation of foodstuffs number 38. This number is made up as follows:-

Butchers	4.
Grocers and Provision Merchants	10.
Bakehouses	2.
Fish Shops	1.
Cafes, Public Houses, &c.	7.
Institutional Kitchens,	
Schools and Industrial Canteens	9.
Greengrocers	5.

83 visits were made to these food premises during the year.

Various improvements were carried out at food premises, including new washing facilities, additional sanitary accommodation, improved storage arrangements and structural improvements.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

No charge is made in respect of private dwellings.

Routine Sewer treatments were carried out twice during the year, and the Council Tip and Sewage Works were similarly treated.

Rodent Control - Summary of work done.

Total number of premises inspected	174
Number of premises infested	26
Number of premises treated by the Council	26
Total number of visits and re-visits	211

